



PATENT  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Burl Shannon Hinkle

Serial No.: 09/845,397

Filed: April 30, 2001

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR  
SIMULATING BUSINESS  
OPERATIONS

Group Art Unit: 2165

Examiner: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of this Application, please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 3, please delete paragraph [0013] and replace with the following paragraph:

*A1*  
[0013] Figure 4A is a first portion of a spreadsheet indicating independent variables to be input into a base model. Figure 4B is a second portion of the spreadsheet indicating independent variables to be input into a base model.

On page 4, please delete paragraph [0019] and replace with the following paragraph:

*A2*  
[0019] Figures 15A through 42D are a scenario summary report including a baseline scenario and six other scenarios.

On page 18, please delete paragraph [0082] and replace with the following paragraph:

Figures 4A-4B show a spreadsheet 100 and Figure 5 is a continuation spreadsheet 102

*A3*  
according to one embodiment of the present invention. The spread sheets are stored within